

Report for Cooloola Human Services Network Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 30th March 2010

Access Advisory Committee – Gympie Region

The Access Advisory Committee – Gympie Region's vision is:

'A community that is universally accessible and accepting of all its members.'

The Committee continued to progress this vision throughout 2009 by:

- promoting the importance of access issues within the Gympie Region.
- providing an independent forum for discussing and investigating issues related to access and inclusion for all members of the Gympie Region.
- encouraging strong community involvement in identifying and resolving access related issues.
- making recommendations to Gympie Regional Council, business and community agencies on how best to improve access within the Shire for all members of the community, in order to enable better planning of new facilities, and develop appropriate modifications to existing facilities.

Highlights for 2009 included:

- Conducting presentations and providing advice to Fraser Coast Regional Council, Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Sunshine Coast Regional Disability Council on Gympie's Access Advisory Committee model to assist those regions in development of their own access and equity bodies.
- Hosting a 'Meet & Greet' presentation and morning tea in Gympie for a range of community stakeholders.
- Developing our own website: www.aacgympie.org.au
- Providing five submissions to Gympie Regional Council on Development Applications referred by Council across the Shire as a Third Party Advice Agency.
- Liaising with Gympie Regional Council on:
 - the proposed Gympie pool hoist
 - Nelson Reserve accessible toilet design issues
 - All Abilities Playground Project
 - the accessibility of the design of a new taxi rank planned for Monkland St
 - recommendations for minor works to improve accessibility around the region
 - the new Town Hall lift design
 - access requirements in the new planning scheme
 - Disability Parking Permit Scheme issues in Mary Street
 - improving Council's procedures in maintaining access to footpaths during construction projects

- Liaising with Gympie Cooloola Tourism on incorporating access information in tourist publications and their website
- Advocating for access improvements to:
 - Big W's photo kiosks
 - Gympie Showgrounds
 - QML building
 - Gympie Community Place
 - Gympie Community Health Centre and Gympie Hospital
 - The Early Years Family Hub
 - footpaths and crossings as part of the Bruce Hwy upgrade through Gympie
 - accessible parking at Gympie Marketplace
 - accessible shopping trolleys at IGA Gympie
 - Chatz Cafe's accessible toilet.

I wish to thank all our volunteer members who made great personal contributions to the work of the Committee throughout the year. Unfortunately, we had to accept the resignation of Amanda Le Peilbet, General Manager of Gympie Cooloola Tourism, due to increases in her own work load.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the invaluable ongoing support of Cooloola Human Services Network, our Secretary Dianne Hughes, Councillor Rae Gâté and Gympie Regional Council staff.

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